

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USBERL 00984 01 OF 02 251528Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 H-01 PM-05 INR-10 L-03  
ACDA-12 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00 HA-05 OMB-01  
EB-08 AS-01 CA-01 IO-13 /091 W  
-----049638 251737Z /41

O R 251450Z APR 78  
FM USMISSION USBERLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6719  
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USBERLIN 0984

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, BQG, AKB  
SUBJECT: NICO HUEBNER

REF: (A) STATE 103684, (B) BONN 7519, (C) STATE 96906,  
(D) USBERLIN 0730

SUMMARY: SINCE ALLIES HAVE ALREADY RESPONDED TO PRESS INQUIRIES  
ON HUEBNER, USBER DOES NOT REPEAT NOT BELIEVE WE SHOULD NOW  
MAKE PRESS STATEMENT RECOMMENDED BY BONN GROUP IN REFTEL A,  
SINCE IT ADDS NOTHING TO ORIGINAL REMARKS MADE BY CHAIRMAN  
(FRENCH) PRESS SPOKESMAN, AND INDEED IN SOME RESPECTS RE-  
TREATS FROM ALLIES' ORIGINAL POSITION. WE BELIEVE BONN GROUP  
SHOULD FOCUS ITS ATTENTION ON PREPARING ADEQUATE REPLY TO LORENZ.  
END SUMMARY.

1. IN REFTEL A, DPEARTMENT STATES THAT THE LONGER THE ALLIES  
DELAY ACTION ON THE HUEBNER CASE, THE MORE APPARENT OUR  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USBERL 00984 01 OF 02 251528Z

DIFFERENCES AND OUR INABILITY TO DO ANYTHING IN THIS  
CASE WILL BECOME. MISSION WOULD OFFER A DIFFERENT OPINION.  
WE NOTE THAT ON 22-23 MARCH THE ALLIED CHAIRMAN (FRENCH) PRESS  
OFFICER RESPONDED TO PRESS INQUIRIES (REFTLE D) ESSENTIAL-  
LY ALONG THE LINES OF THE TEXT WHICH HAS JUST BEEN  
RECOMMENDED BY THE BONN GROUP FOR AN ALLIED PRESS STATE-  
EMTN. THE MAIN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE STATEMENT MADE

BY CHAIRMAN PRESS SPOKESMAN AND BONN GROUP ARE THAT:  
(A) BONN GROUP TEXT CONTAINS IMPLICATION THAT ALLIES  
HAVE PROTESTED TO THE SOVIETS, AND ALLIED TEXT DID NOT  
CONTAIN THIS IMPLICATION; AND (B) ALLIED STATEMENT MEN-  
TIONED NICO HUEBNER, INDICATING THAT THE ALLIES HAD IN-  
DEED HEARD REPORTS CONCERNING THE HUEBNER CASE THOUGH  
WE HAD NOT CONFIRMED THE DETAILS, AND BONN GROUP TEXT  
MAKES NO MENTION WHATSOEVER OF HUEBNER. THE BERLIN  
PRESS HAS ESSENTIALLY IGNORED THIS ALLIED STATEMENT.  
WE CAN UNDERSTAND WHY THEY IGNORED THE STATEMENT SINCE  
IT SAID VERY LITTLE AND CONTAINED NOTHING NEW.

2. USBER DOUBTS THE UTILITY OF OUR MAKING YET ANOTHER  
PRESS STATEMENT WHICH ADDS LITTLE TO THE PRESS STATEMENT  
THAT WE MADE INITIALLY UPON BEING CONTACTED BY THE PRESS.  
WHERE OUR INITIAL STATEMENT WAS IGNORED BY THE PRESS,  
WE SUSPECT THAT THE ISSUANCE OF A STATEMENT ALONG THE  
LINES OF REFTLE B PARAGRAPH 3 MIGHT RECEIVE A GREAT  
DEAL OF NEGATIVE PRESS INTEREST LARGELY BECAUSE IT SAYS  
SO LITTLE (PERHAPS EVEN LESS THAN THE ORIGINAL PRESS  
STATEMENT) AND COMES SO LATE. ACCORDINGLY, USBER IS OF  
THE VIEW THAT WE SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT MAKE AN ADDITIONAL  
PRESS STATEMENT UNLESS WE ARE PREPARED TO MAKE A STATEMENT OF  
MORE SUBSTANCE THAN THAT RECOMMENDED BY THE  
BONN GROUP. SUCH A STATEMENT, WE BELIEVE, WOULD AT  
LEAST HAVE TO MAKE REFERENCE TO NICO HUEBNER AND TO DE-  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USBERL 00984 01 OF 02 251528Z

PLORE THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH HAVE RESULTED IN HIS TREAT-  
MENT BY THE AUTHORITIES IN THE SOVIET SECTOR. GIVEN  
THE DEPARTMENT'S RELUCTANCE TO REFER TO THE INDIVIDUAL  
IN THIS CASE, AND ITS DESIRE THAT ALLIED ISSUE NO MORE THAN  
A LOW-KEY STATEMENT, IF ANY, USBER STRONGLY RECOMMENDS  
THAT WE NOT REPEAT NOT CONTEMPLATE ISSUING A FURTHER RE-  
PEAT FURTHER PRESS STATEMENT, BUT THAT ALLIES CONCENTRATE  
THEIR EFFORTS ON DRAFTING PROTEST AND RESPOND TO LORENZ.

NOTE BY OCT: USBERLIN 984 SECTION 2 OF 2 NOT YET RECEIVED IN  
DEPARTMENT. SECTION 2 OF 2 HAS BEEN SERVICED AND WILL FOLLOW.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USBERL 00984 02 OF 02 251801Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 H-01 PM-05 INR-10 L-03  
ACDA-12 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00 IO-13 HA-05  
OMB-01 EB-08 CA-01 /090 W  
-----050871 251805Z /43

O R 251450Z APR 78  
FM USMISSION USBERLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000  
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USBERLIN 0984

3. USBER UNDERSTANDS THAT THE BONN GROUP EXPECTS THAT ANSWER TO LORENZ IS TO BE DRAWN FROM ALLIED PRESS STATEMENT RECOMMENDED BY THE BONN GROUP. IN OUR VIEW, AN ANSWER TO LORENZ BASED ON THE PROPOSED PRESS STATEMENT WOULD BE UNSATISFACTORY. THAT IS TO SAY, IF ONE OF OUR OBJECTIVES IS TO PREVENT THE EXCALATION OF THIS ISSUE IN BERLIN WE FEAR THAT SUCH A NON-RESPONSIVE REPLY TO LORENZ WOULD MOTIVATE HIM AS THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION BE HIGHLY AND PUBLICLY CRITICAL OF THE ALLIES. ACCORDINGLY, WE BELIEVE THAT THE BONN GROUP SHOULD FOCUS ITS ATTENTION ON PROVIDING A REPLY TO LORENZ, WHICH IS MORE RESPONSIVE THAN THE PROPOSED ALLIED PRESS STATEMENT (E.G. WHILE THE PROPOSED PRESS STATEMENT MAKES NO REFERENCE TO HUEBNER, WE FAIL TO SEE HOW A RESPONSE TO LORENZ COULD AVOID MENTION OF HIS NAME).

4. ALLIED MISSION IN BERLIN ARE NO LONGER COORDINATING THE DEVELOPMENT OF TEXTS ON THIS SUBJECT. USBER DID CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USBERL 00984 02 OF 02 251801Z

CIRCULATE TO THE BRITISH AND THE FRENCH MISSIONS DRAFT TEXTS OF RESPONSE TO LORENZ AND OF SOVIET PROTEST. HOWEVER, OUR DRAFT PROTEST AND DRAFT RESPONSE TO LORENZ HAVE NOT BEEN COMMENTED UPON BY THE BRITISH AND FRENCH IN THE LIGHT OF THE SEIZURE OF THE MATTER BY THE BONN GROUP. THIS HAS SOMEWHAT COMPLICATED OUR WORKING METHODS AND USBER BELIEVES THAT AT THIS STAGE WE SHOULD NOT PURSUE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TEXTS WITH THE BRITISH AND THE FRENCH IN BERLIN BUT THAT THE BONN GROUP SHOULD HANDLE THE PREPARATIONS OF TEXTS. BY THEIR SILENCE ON

OUR TEXTS, THE BRITISH AND FRENCH MISSIONS SEEM TO BE OF THE SAME OPINION. PLEASE ADVISE.

5. IN ADDITION TO OUR GENERAL REACTION THAT BOTH THE PRESS STATEMENT AND PROTESTS RECOMMENDED BY THE BONN GROUP ARE VERY BLAND AND THAT IF THEY CANNOT BE MADE STRONGER, THEY PERHAPS SHOLD NOT BE MADE AT ALL, WE WOULD NOTE THAT THE PROPOSED PROTEST TO GHE SOVIETS CONTAINS THE SENTENCE: "DEMILITARIZATION LEGISLATION APPLIES TO THE WHOLE OF BERLIN." WE WOULD STRONGLY RECOMMEND AGAINST INCLUSION OF THIS SENTENCE IN ANY PROTEST TO THE SOVIETS. THERE IS NO RPT NO DEMILITARIZATION "LEGISLATION" AGREED TO BY THE FOUR POWERS OR IMPOSED BY THE THREE POWERS IN THEIR CAPACITY AS THE RESUMED ALLIED KOMMANDATURA WHICH APPLIES TO THE ISSUE OF CONSCRIPTION OF GERMAN RESIDENTS TO THE SOVIET SECTOR INTO THE GDR VOLKSARMEE. ACCORDINGLY, THE SENTENCE STRIKES US AS EXCEEDINGLY MISLEADING. WE ALSO CONSIDER IT UNNECESSARY. WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT ALTERNATIVELY THE SENTENCE READ: "THE DEMILITARIZED STATUS OF BERLIN APPLIES TO ALL FOUR OF ITS SECTORS."

6. FOR THE RECORD IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT HUEBNER CASE  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USBERL 00984 02 OF 02 251801Z

HAS CONTINUED TO RECEIVE SOME ATTENTION IN THE BERLIN PRESS TWO OR THREE TIMES A WEEK. FOR EXAMPLE, SENAT SPOKESMAN PETER SOETJE TOLD PRESS APRIL 17 THAT GOVERNING MAYOR HAD DISCUSSED THE HUEBNER CASE WITH THE COMMANDANTS AT THEIR REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING. STOBBE, HOWEVER, WOULD NOT COMMENT IN PUBLIC ON HIS CONFIDENTIAL EXCHANGES. THE RIGHT WING OF THE BERLIN FDP TOOK OUT A SMALL AD IN DER ABEND APRIL 21 CALLING FOR HUEBNER'S RELEASE. THE BERLIN CDU HAS COLLECTED 10,000 SIGNATURES ON PETITIONS WHICH WILL BE SENT TO THE ALLIED KOMMANDATURA FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE ALLIES. FINALLY, THE BERLINER MORGENPOST (SPRINGER) RAN A TWO COLUMN EDITORIAL APRIL 23 CRITICAL OF JUST ABOUT EVERYBODY (PARTICULARLY THE BERLIN AND BONN GOVERNMENTS) EVEN INDIRECTLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE HUEBNER CASE, BUT NOT MAKING ANY POSITIVE SUGGESTIONS ON DEALING WITH THE ISSUE. THE WEST BERLIN PRESS ALSO REPORTED VERY BRIEFLY ON APRIL 23, INFORMATION REPORTEDLY BEING SPREAD BY EAST GERMAN SSD TO DEFAME HUEBNER, CLAIMING HE HAS A LONG RECORD OF ASOCIAL BEHAVIOR AND IS A HOMOSEXUAL.

7. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH MANY PLAYERS ON THE BERLIN CIRCUIT WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE HUEBNER ISSUE GO AWAY, SPRINGER PRESS, BERLIN CDU AND PART OF BERLIN FDP WILL NOT LET IT DIE. WE ARE ALL AWARE OF LITTLE WE ALLIES CAN DO

FOR HIM, BUT THE FACT REMAINS THAT THE ALLIES WILL COME  
IN FOR SOME SHARP CRITICISM IF THEY PROVE UNABLE TO  
SO MUCH AS MAKE A CLEAR RPT CLEAR ANSWER TO THE LETTERS  
THEY HAVE RECEIVED. WE SHOULD DO THIS OON. ACCORDINGLY,  
WE HOPE THAT EMBASSY BONN CAN PERSUADE THE BRITISH AND  
FRENCH WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S SUPPORT TO AGREE TO A  
DRAFT WHICH AT A MINIMUM MENTIONS HUEBNER AND EXPRESSES  
CONCERN AT VIOLATIONS OF THE DEMILITARIZED STATUS OF  
ALL FOUR SECTORS OF BERLIN.GEORGE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY PERSONNEL, CONSCRIPTION, ALLIANCE, POLICIES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978USBERL00984  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780176-0978  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** USBERLIN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780418/aaaaaoqf.tel  
**Line Count:** 232  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 235ebca7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 5  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 STATE 103684, 78 BONN 7519, 78 STATE 96906, 78 USBERLIN 730  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 31 mar 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2850546  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NICO HUEBNER  
**TAGS:** PGOV, WB, US, BQG, AKB, (HUEBNER, NICO)  
**To:** STATE BONN  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/235ebca7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014